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HOUSE RESOLUTION 256  
By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to designate April 28, 2002 as Mount Nebo Baptist Church Day in Davidson County in celebration of the congregation's 131<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the Mount Nebo Baptist Church comprise one such estimable congregation, who will be celebrating the Church's 131<sup>st</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, April 28, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the celebration will be a time of reflecting on the past, giving thanks for the present, and joyfully looking forward to a future filled with spiritual goodness; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Nebo Baptist Church was founded in 1871, and during its early years, the congregation provided much needed support and strength during the post-war Reconstruction; and

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WHEREAS, the congregation first met in a schoolhouse on the corner of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Clifton Road, and as they enter the church's 14<sup>th</sup> decade, they still meet at that very location; and

WHEREAS, Mount Nebo's first Pastor was the Reverend Pharaoh Benson, who served the congregation with acumen and alacrity for twelve years and became known as "Evangelist" because of the increased membership God brought to Mount Nebo during Reverend Benson's term; during its 130 years, the congregation has been blessed through the service and wisdom of twenty-two pastors; and

WHEREAS, as God has continued to bless them, the Mount Nebo Baptist Church has striven to expand its facilities and services to meet the needs of the congregation and the community; in response to continued growth, the Church has grown to include a beautiful sanctuary and a modern educational complex that have greatly enhanced the congregation's ability to meet the Lord's decree to serve his people; and

WHEREAS, recent improvements have included a new nursery, choir room, pastor study, kitchen, classrooms, conference rooms, and an elevator; and

WHEREAS, following Jesus' command to "go ye forth and preach," the Mount Nebo Baptist Church is devoted to sharing the joy and peace that can only be found within Jesus Christ; in their laudable crusade, they draw much inspiration from the sagacious leadership of Pastor Theodore H. Bryson; and

WHEREAS, Mount Nebo Baptist Church has a long-established legacy of committed service to its community; they have taken to heart the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words"; and

WHEREAS, a few of the congregation's noteworthy outreach projects include programs for youth, community clean-up efforts, the Pearl Cohn High School Adopt-a-School program, Room at the Inn, service to the residents of Windsor House Nursing Home, and nursery and transportation ministries; and

WHEREAS, the congregation's 131<sup>st</sup> year was one of their most outstanding, as they hosted the Baptist Education Convention that included Christians from throughout the state and participated in African American Church Day on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, to better serve the community, the church has added notable new programs, including several committees, Let's Talk, Addict and Beyond, a Parenting Class, and Children's Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and the youth, couples, and singles ministries have been enhanced; and

WHEREAS, the congregation has become even further involved in outreach activities and has adopted Pearl Cohn School; and

WHEREAS, the fine Christians who comprise the membership of the Mount Nebo Baptist Church personify Paul's words in I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"; and

WHEREAS, Mount Nebo Baptist Church is among those institutions in our great state upon which a just and orderly society is based; it is a focal point for our citizens to worship their Creator as a community of faith and from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Nebo Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious organizations and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE That we designate Sunday, April 28, 2002 as Mount Nebo Baptist Church Day in Davidson County and join in celebrating the 131<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we thank the members of Mount Nebo Baptist Church for their notable service to this State and wish them much success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.